

NOVEMBER 1949

 BIBLE
SOCIETY

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PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

Record



"The Bible—for us to read and share with all the world"

A Bible Depot in Damascus

The Society's Agent in Bible Lands, North here tells us how prayers have been answered for establishing more firmly the World's Greatest Book in the World's Oldest City

BY F. LYMAN MACCALLUM

"FOR YEARS we had been praying and planning, seeking here and there for funds. And then, suddenly there it stood in shining newness, while a joyful congregation filled the Arabic Presbyterian Church of Damascus, Syria to return thanks to God for the opening of a Bible shop in their great city."



The contract signed, Mr. Accad appraises his new property

Of course it did not really happen so suddenly. First, funds were allotted, enough for a two-year experiment. Then Mr. Fouad Accad, the energetic Subagent for Syria and the Lebanon, made several trips from his headquarters in Beirut, seeking a suitable location. In March he again crossed the snowy Lebanon mountains, intending to close the contract for the best of the shops he had seen. But this time he was led to a shop vacated only a few days earlier, which could be had on easier terms and was more suitable for his purpose than any of the others. It can be seen in one of the accompanying photographs in the condition in which it was taken over. With his long experience in Bible work, Mr. Accad planned and carried through changes which give us a maximum of display front on this busy Rue El-Abed, which leads to the Syrian Parliament. Behind the shown window, there is a compact sales room with dust-proof display counters, a second small room for quiet reading or prayer, and overhead a business office and

storage shelves for extra stock. The plant is pocket-size but smart and efficient.

Local Christian groups have long wished for the opening of such a center. As a mark of their wholehearted interest the British Syrian Mission has loaned their valued evangelist, Mr. Yussuf Sayes, to serve as depot-keeper during this difficult initial period. Mr. Sayes has worked for years in Damascus and knows its officials and its common people well, in addition to having relationships with many of the foreign community of that growing and cosmopolitan city.

At the service of inauguration and thanksgiving, which took place on the afternoon of June 19, 1949, messages and prayers were given in Arabic, English and Armenian by Mr. Accad, the Rev. E. Enright and others, under the chairmanship of the Rev. H. Khabbaz, pastor of the church. The collection amounted to approximately \$40.

Thus an experiment requiring much faith and courage has been launched successfully. Those who have begun this work believe that when the two-year period is ended, it will have proved so worth-while that funds for its regular support will be found. The prayers and good wishes of many are with Mr. Sayes as he daily offers the Bible to the passing throngs of the oldest city in the world.

On opening day. Door to rear leads upstairs to business office



Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 94 NOVEMBER · 1949 NUMBER 9

What and Why—Worldwide Bible Reading

DURING 1943, when the United States was deep in the war, Dr. George Gallup took a poll of Bible readers. He found that while there were 64 percent of the people who read the Bible to some extent during the year, only one in ten read it daily. Although this showed an increase over a similar poll taken the year before, the figures were alarmingly low.

In addition to its basic purposes of aiding translators of the Bible, publishing and distributing the Bible, the American Bible Society has always included its responsibility for encouraging the regular use of the Bible. The Gallup figures proved a spur to the Society's endeavors to increase Bible reading. The success of a statewide effort in Texas in 1943 was a further encouragement. Accordingly, the Society inaugurated in 1944 a program it called Nationwide Bible Reading. It was not made of whole cloth, but grew up spontaneously out of a letter written by a Marine on Guadalcanal to his mother in Philadelphia to set up a program of simultaneous Bible reading at home with him. To point up the program, selections were listed for daily reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas, the whole enterprise to be linked with the already popular celebration of Universal Bible Sunday in early December. The cooperation not only of churches, but of schools, libraries, bookstores, lodges, industry, labor unions, magazines, newspapers, the radio and others was sought to make the celebration really nationwide.

The popularity of the 1944 program carried it far beyond the borders of our own land, so that since 1945 it has quite justly been called Worldwide Bible Reading.

Last year, with the endorsement of President Truman and thirty-eight state governors, the orders exceeded those of any other year. In addition to the 12,000,000 bookmarks listing the readings distributed by the Society, over 20,000,000 copies of the list appeared in newspapers and magazines not only of a religious nature, but the secular press as well. Among the house organs to carry them were *The Pullman News*, *Westinghouse House Organ* and the *Railroad Workers' Journal*.

Possibly the surest test of the permanent usefulness of Worldwide Bible Reading is in the growing popularity of the daily reading list for the whole year, which from the first has been issued along with the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas list. Between 1945 and 1949 the demand has leaped from 250,000 to 1,000,000 and is expected to go higher for 1950.

The worldwide aspect of the program also grows from year to year. The reading lists, the poster and other materials are regularly prepared in various foreign languages, and enthusiastic reports came last year from thirty-four nations scattered as far around the globe as Greece, Brazil, Siam, China, Japan and Korea.

In its Worldwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas, program the Society feels that the Lord is leading it to a far more adequate meeting of one of its basic purposes—getting the Bible read. In its colonial beginnings our nation was born of and bred on the Bible. The permanent set of the American way of life still reflects its benign teachings. The role we are called on to play in this critical period of world readjustment calls for the strictest adherence to Christian principles. Bible reading was never more needed in America nor the world than today.

It is needed in America especially for another urgent reason. Never before has the world been asking for the Bible as today. And America must for some time continue to be the chief source of Bible supply. Only to the degree that people read and appreciate the Bible do they become sharers of the Bible with their needy neighbors.

Worldwide Bible Reading for 1949 will commence about a month from the time this issue of the *Record* reaches you. Will you not throw yourself wholeheartedly into it? Your pastor has received a packet of materials suggesting ways of promoting the celebration. He can help you make your personal contribution to its success. Or write the Society at the Bible House in New York, or the nearest District Office, for Bible bookmarks which you can distribute. Let us together get the Bible read with unprecedented enthusiasm!

What a Bible Means in Europe

With the additional information from the Society's Geneva Office that they had recently received a letter from a Woman in Germany reporting that the German Bible recently sent her Husband in a Russian Prisoner-of-War Camp had reached him safely, after being carefully scrutinized by the Russian Officials

PASTOR Werner Stamm writes from his parish in the British Zone as follows:

In a small narrow room with one bed, a stove, a chest of drawers, with two chairs, live two poor old people, both over seventy. They were expelled from their home in Silesia and have found shelter here with strange people. I visited these old people and heard with sadness what they lived through during their banishment and flight. One felt the great homesickness of these uprooted people. With tears the old woman said, "They took away our home, our property and possessions, but they could not take from our hearts our Christian faith." And then she said, "Pastor, do you not have a Bible for us; we no longer have one?" Then I could happily say: "From the Christian people in America I have received some Bibles, of which you will receive one."

Another letter comes from pastor Gottfried Sallet, who writes:

You will probably be interested to learn a little about the spiritual welfare of Lager 7074 to which I belonged from January 1946 until October 1948, as well as about the requests for help in this respect.

The Officers' Camp Oranki-Monastirka must be about one of the best, also from the spiritual point of view. We were able to hold a service every Sunday, either in the vestibule, in the open air or in the bunkers. For a little while during the autumn and winter of 1947-48 we were allowed to use the culturally beautiful winter church (now the "club") of the monastery in which the camp is situated. Then this was taken away from us, because the "club" was only to be used for "cultural" purposes. We then moved into the dining room, which had the advantage in winter of being warm.

The following are still in the camp today: Oberpfarrer Link, Pfarrers Herbert Behrendt, Friedrich Roettig, Klaus, Bielenstein, Brunnings. Once a week the pastors hold a meeting, at which there are reports. On that occasion one of the pastors reports the (very sparse) church news out of the available *Eastern Berlin* newspapers. Brother Roettig wrote to me: "Since Advent we have got a good church choir together, which has already sung many lovely pieces.

The last they sang was the Credo and Psalm 100, and now they are practising Psalm 23."

I myself had had a New Testament sent to me, cut up and posted in 20-gram letters during half a year, from autumn 1946 to April 1947, when letters were allowed. Unfortunately, it was taken away from me when I left the

camp. In my haste I had forgotten to give it to the others. Previous to that, I had copied out portions of the Bible on cigarette paper (thick paper there); and so, for instance, I had the letter to the Galatians in small handwriting, and with many shorthand abbreviations, written on four cigarette papers. One brother, who left the camp before me, had a much desired Stuttgart Jubiläumsbibel with notes, which he took with him. Communion is held about once a month, with coffee and pieces of bread.

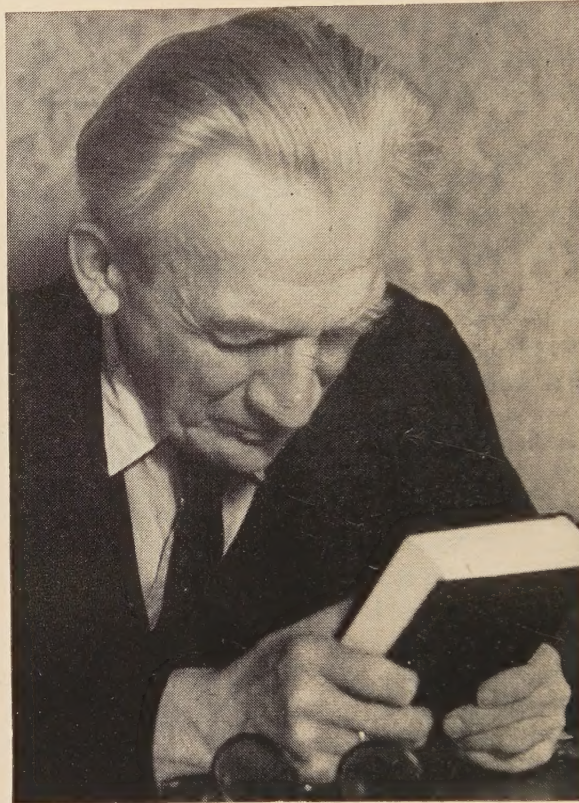
The number attending the church service averaged between 70 and 150, mainly officers, of whom there are still about six to seven hundred.

To Secretary Béguin in Geneva, Pastor Arthur Boshamer writes from the Russian Zone:

I thank God and our Christian brethren and sisters in America who have made us a gift of Bibles. Of course,

lovely as the gift is, my task of distributing the forty-eight Bibles is a difficult one. Our Kirchenkreis includes fifteen pastorates, with twenty-eight communities and about 32,000 souls, of whom about fifty percent are refugees; so that we can say that in our Kirchenkreis 16,000 Bibles are needed. First of all, I thought that I would see that the pastorates are supplied with enough Bibles so that at the Bible classes and for the Bible work among the men, women and young people everyone could have a Bible. According to my calculation, that means that we would need 1,500 Bibles urgently. For Bible work is only really fruitful when everyone present has a Bible in the hand and can follow the reading and look up passages for himself. Do not think me insolent if, at the same time as thanking you, I ask whether perhaps we could be given further help.

We are still very far from being able to do as we used to do; namely, to give every confirmation candidate and every bridal couple a Bible, or for every schoolchild to be able to buy a Bible.



"O how love I thy law!"

There is, in fact, a great hunger after the Word of God, and many a refugee has come to see that the loss of his Bible was the hardest thing of all.

So, accept again our very grateful thanks.

And finally, direct to the Bible House in New York a grateful recipient writes from the British Zone:

I wish to express my hearty thanks to the American Bible Society for the shipment of Bibles. It makes me very happy, as it also does my brethren and sisters in Christ, that I was thought of in this connection.

What is a house or family without a Bible? We have an example in Russia. For a while we had one in Germany. What a joy it is to us to be able to instruct our children in

and through the Bible! May the Bible remain with us and never be taken from us again!

Here is another experience I have had: on coming into possession of a New Testament some time ago, I kissed it with tears and pressed it to my heart, rarely letting it out of my hands. I did lend it to someone for a while. One of the brethren has told me that while he was a prisoner in Russia, he not only himself read the New Testament he had with him, but that one after another of his comrades read from it. When he was freed an officer asked for the Testament.

When Russian communism is overcome, then we are going to need millions of Bibles in Russian. The Russian people are ripe for the Word of God. The Lord bless you and your books! Once more, many thanks for the Bibles.

Laying Deep Foundations in Japan

How some of the Society's Scriptures were used last summer by our Occupation Forces to teach Japanese children freedom of worship, as told by the Troop Carrier Wing Chaplain at the Tachikawa Air Force Base, near Tokyo

BY MAURICE D. FULKERSON

REMEMBER when you were a kid and that last day of school finally came around? Remember how you planned to go fishing, swimming or hiking, and remember how happy you were when Mom and Dad would let you go barefooted? You would sometimes stub a toe but that just seemed part of the game.

The world may be living in the atomic era; the greatest changes in modes of living may be taking place today; but for kids, the world never changes. Summer time still means vacation time—the time for picnics, parties and the like.

In Christian America, summer also means the time for Vacation Bible School—the time for kids to join together in learning the story of Christ and His teachings.

The Tachikawa Air Force Base Chapel, in keeping with this American custom, inaugurated a two-week school last summer. The children learned Bible stories and studied Bible texts during the devotional hours.

It took the combined efforts of the 74th Troop Carrier Wing Chaplain, Capt. Maurice D. Fulkerson, more than 50 of the wives on the base, the chapel organist, many Japanese nationals, the 548th Engineer Service Battalion Band from Murayama, Japan, and all the mothers on the base, to plan and operate this two-week school.

On July 1 thirty-six women canvassed homes in the Tachi Dependent Housing area, asking names and ages of children who would be interested in attending the school. More than 275 youngsters were enrolled.

On the opening day of the school, July 15, two large flat-bed GI trucks decorated with the blue and yellow Bible-school colors and led by a band from the

548th Engineer Service Battalion paraded through the dependent area. Following these were six buses, also decorated in the Bible-school colors, carrying the children, who sang Christian songs.

Three children were selected to carry the symbols of religious freedom in America. Rita Harvey, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Marvin Harvey, carried the Bible, symbolizing the Word of God; Oliver Anderson, son of M/Sgt. and Mrs. Horace E. Anderson, carried the Christian flag, the emblem of the Christian faith; and Sonny Powell, son of Major and Mrs. Clarence L. Powell, carried the colors, the insignia of democracy.

About 250 children took part in the procession, which then proceeded to the Wing chapel, where the children were assigned to classes.

The classes lasted from 8:30 until 11:30 every morning and included beginners', primary, junior and intermediate studies of the Bible. The children were also given instruction in character building and hand work of different kinds.

The children were taught basket making, bead work, soap modeling, crayon and color work and several other types of creative activities. A Japanese artisan was hired to instruct, prepare and select the special materials needed. An interpreter from the base was also obtained to assist this artisan in his instructions.

The two older departments were given a talk by Colonel Segawa, Japanese missionary, who is senior Salvation Army minister at Tachikawa City. He spoke to the group on the development of Christian missionary work in Japan.

A short tour was made by the junior and intermediate children to the Japanese Christian Rural Mission near Hino Station.

Prizes were secured from the United States for outstanding work. They included beautifully molded wall plaques and Bible story books.



The symbols of Religious Freedom head the parade on Registration Day. Left to right, Sonny Powell, son of Major and Mrs. Clarence L. Powell; Rita Harvey, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Marvin Harvey; Oliver Anderson, son of M/Sgt and Mrs. Horace E. Anderson

On the final night, July 29, at the graduation service each child was presented with a graduation certificate. Awards and ribbons were also presented. Each department was allotted fifteen minutes to give a survey of the work accomplished.

The chapel was packed. Parents beamed as their children received awards, and you could hear little whispers of excitement from the different sections of the chapel as each child arose to receive his or her award.

During the recess each day, the children were furnished with milk and cookies paid for by the Protestant Denominational Fund. In addition, a picnic on the final day of the school was held, the mothers furnishing the sandwiches, cookies, soft drinks and ice cream.

The staff for the school sponsored was supervised by Mrs. J. V. Bledsoe. She in turn was supported by one general secretary and four departmental secretaries, four departmental principals and thirty-six teachers—a total of about fifty-three persons.

A school paper was also prepared which each child carried to his home at the end of the day's session.

The preparing of this paper was done in this manner. Each department secretary gathered interesting

information on the current day's activities. This was handed to the general secretary, who channeled it into the main office, where it was edited and prepared for the newspaper. The chapel secretary then cut a stencil, and it was mimeographed for distribution. This newspaper made quite a definite impression on the parents and aided in teacher-parent cooperation.

Thus we of the Occupation are doing what we can to set an example for the Japanese. We are demonstrating how children from a free country are raised and instructed. In so doing we are transplanting the seed of one of the freedoms of our country—that of freedom to worship as we please.

In the Gospel according to Matthew, we read:

Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.



Many *Record* readers will recall the illustrated story carried in the April issue entitled, "The Greatest Bible-Manuscript Discovery in Modern Times." The accompanying picture helps to bring the story up to date. Metropolitan Athanasius Yeshue Samuel of the Syrian Orthodox Monastery of St. Mark in Jerusalem, which owns the scrolls, holds one of the precious discoveries, while Professor Millar Burrows (left) of Yale University, who will edit the published translation of the manuscripts, and John C. Trever, of the International Council of Religious Education, and Rev. E. Sugar of the Syrian Orthodox Church, look on. The most precious of the scrolls is the Book of Isaiah, almost in its entirety. The conformity of the text of this manuscript to those underlying our standard translations confirms the faithfulness with which our present Bible text has been transmitted. (Copies of the April issue of the *Record* will be gladly sent to any readers requesting them.)

Moving Forward in Argentina

The Evangelical Forces of another Latin American nation unite to speed the Bible's circulation in their country

BY CHARLES W. TURNER

FOR more than a century the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society have been actively engaged in the distribution of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world. For almost the same length of time their evangelistic work has been going on continually in Latin America, and as it has expanded and the Christian community in these countries has grown, the Societies have drawn closer together in their common task. As a result the operations of these two Societies have been united in recent years in the countries of Latin America. This unification was achieved in the field comprising Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay just over a year ago.

Consistent with their purpose to integrate the work of the Bible Societies with that of the Christian forces and community in the various countries of Latin America, the plan of the Bible Societies has been to organize Advisory Councils in each country after their work there had become unified. A few years ago, for example, the first such Council in Latin America was formed in Brazil. As a result of the added impetus thus provided, the work in Brazil expanded greatly, and last year a national Bible Society—the Bible Society of Brazil—was organized and equipped with national leadership. With the cooperation of the parent Societies the Bible Society of Brazil is now carrying on the indispensable work of Scripture distribution in that country.

In Argentina a similar plan is under way. As the first necessary step to this end, at an impressive meeting held on July 28, 1949 in Buenos Aires, an interdenominational group of ministers and laymen, repre-

senting eleven major denominations, met by invitation for the purpose of forming an Advisory Council for Argentina. This Council will aid in guiding current operations and in planning for the future expansion of the work.

It was a great pleasure to have at this meeting Dr. Marc Boegner, Moderator of the Synod of the Reformed Church of France, who, besides his many other responsibilities, is also a member of the Council of the United Bible Societies. Dr. Boegner delivered a thrilling address on the responsibility of Christians as well as of the Church itself, to see to it that the Bible is placed in the hands and hearts of the people.

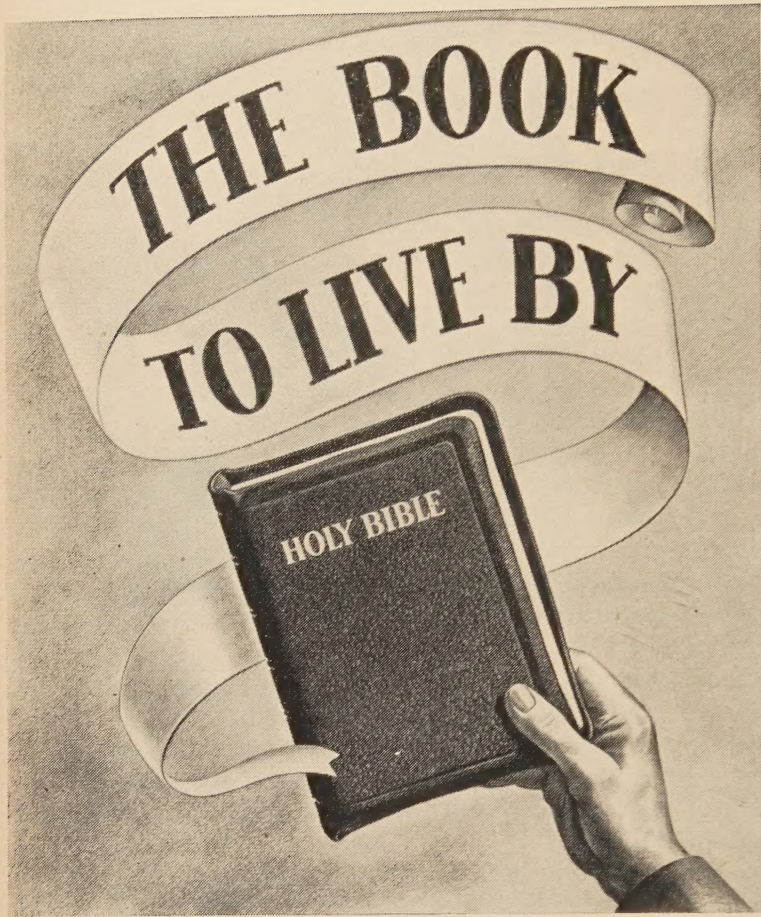
Messages of greeting and good wishes were read from the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, and the American Bible Society in New York. The president of the Council, Rev. Santiago Canclini, pastor of Buenos Aires' leading Baptist church, took occasion to express the Council's appreciation of these messages and the gratitude of all Evangelicals in Argentina for the great work performed in Argentina by the Bible Societies during many decades. He also voiced the gratitude of his fellow countrymen to the many Christians in England and the United States who through faith and self-sacrifice have made possible the translation, production and distribution of the Scriptures not only in Argentina but throughout the world.

The establishing of this new Advisory Council not only represents a new departure in the work of the Bible Societies in Argentina but constitutes also the introduction of a new purpose and a strengthened will

to carry on the indispensable work of the Bible Societies in an increasingly effective way to the most distant frontiers of this great land.



The three men seated in the center are, left to right: Dr. Marc Boegner, Pastor Santiago Canclini and Dr. Charles W. Turner. The group represents eleven major denominations



THE BOOK TO LIVE BY

John Sutherland Bonnell

DE QUINCEY says that there are two kinds of literature—the literature that instructs and the literature that moves; the literature that informs us and that which stirs us to action. The Bible measures up to both requirements. It instructs and it moves.

While the Bible does much to increase our knowledge, and while it is essentially reasonable in its challenge to men and women (“Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord”), its final word is to the heart and conscience of man. But that word concealed within the letter of the Scripture can reach us only as we are ready and receptive to its message. It responds to expectant faith. It ministers courage to the discouraged, hope to the despairing, guidance to the bewildered, forgiveness to

the penitent, consolation to the sorrowing, rest to the weary and peace to the inwardly distraught. It has a remedy for every moral and spiritual ill of mankind.

Best of all, it sets before us the *Word of Words*—even Jesus Christ Himself. I have read somewhere that a beautiful engraving of the American Constitution has been made. As one holds it at a distance, suddenly he realizes that the words and letters had been so arranged as to

LE READING

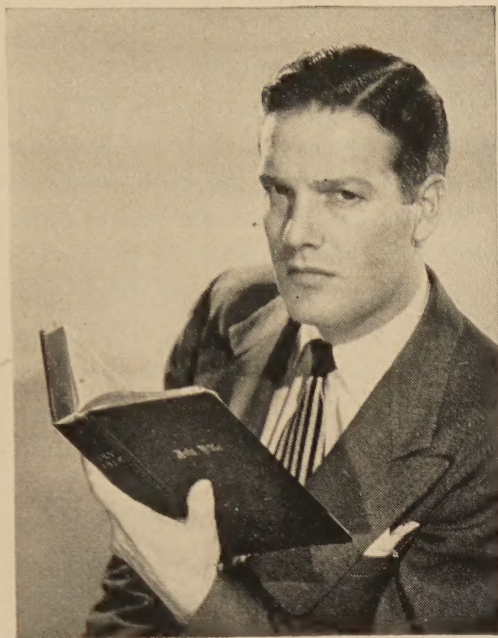
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Cut here and fold in center

"The Book To Live By"

These readings feature Bible selections
which bring out helpful truths
concerning the theme

Thanksgiving, Nov. 24.....	Psalms 23
Friday.....	Psalms 27
Saturday.....	Psalms 103
Sunday, Nov. 27.....	Isaiah 35
Monday.....	Romans 12
Tuesday.....	Isaiah 55
Wednesday.....	I Corinthians 13
Thursday, Dec. 1.....	John 14
Friday.....	Psalms 8
Saturday.....	Revelation 21:1-7
Sunday, Dec. 4.....	II Timothy 2
Monday.....	Micah 6:1-8
Tuesday.....	Acts 17:16-34
Wednesday.....	Revelation 22:1-7
Thursday.....	John 3:1-17
Friday.....	Thessalonians 5:12-28
Saturday.....	Mark 4:1-20
Universal Bible	
Sunday, Dec. 11.....	II Chronicles 7:11-18
Monday.....	John 4:1-14
Tuesday.....	Luke 10:25-37
Wednesday.....	Matthew 25:31-46
Thursday.....	Exodus 20:1-17
Friday.....	Matthew 6:5-15
Saturday.....	Psalms 119:33-40
Sunday, Dec. 18.....	John 1:1-14
Monday.....	Matthew 5:1-12
Tuesday.....	Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday.....	Romans 8:12-39
Thursday.....	I Corinthians 15:35-58
Friday.....	Isaiah 40
Saturday.....	Isaiah 53
Christmas, Dec. 25.....	Luke 2

If you wish to make Bible reading a
daily habit, speak to your minister,
write your denominational headquar-
ters, or request a list of "Daily Bible
Readings—1950" (U-139) from

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, DEPT. U
450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

This is the Worldwide Bible Reading Bookmark—Cut along this line—Use it in your Bible

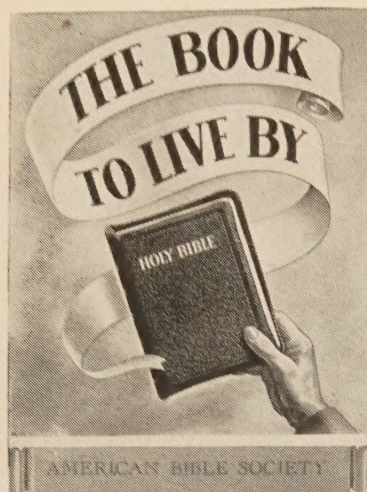
How They Did it in Chamberlain, S. D.

A minimum of organization, but a will to cooperate and a vision of the need for more Bible reading can get results like this in any community. Why not organize for 1949 Worldwide Bible Reading—Thanksgiving to Christmas?

BY BERT L. HALL

Cut here and fold in center

WORLDWIDE *Bible Reading*



THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS 1949

How to Find Help From Bible Reading

- 1—Read carefully and unhurriedly. "Time exposures," not snapshots, should be the rule.
- 2—Read thoughtfully and prayerfully. Try to imagine the scenes.
- 3—Read expectantly and reflectively. Look for the personal message for YOU in each day's passage.
- 4—Read till a verse strikes fire. Your inner response to God's message is vital. When He condemns, bow penitently. When He offers help, place your hope on that assurance. When He commands, obey. When He guides, follow.
- 5—Copy out a key verse daily. Carry it with you, refer to it, and repeat it again and again throughout the day.
- 6—Set aside and keep a regular daily time for reading.
- 7—Make it a habit. Enter the New Year as a daily reader of the Bible.

For additional free copies of this bookmark (or to send contributions to further this program of reading), write

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, DEPT. U
450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

This is the reverse side of the bookmark folder—Cut along this line—Use it in your Bible

OUR TOWN of Chamberlain, S.D. is like many other places with a fairly small population and several churches. We feel that the whole community has benefited from our effort to have all the people read the Bible more regularly.

It all started about the first of November. A small group of interested individuals met at the rectory of the Episcopal church at the request of the pastor. Since only Methodists, Congregationalists and Episcopalians were found to be present, it was decided to hold a second meeting, with more denominations represented, before definite plans were launched.

At the second meeting members of the Advent Church, Assembly of God and two branches of the Lutheran Church were added to the group. We organized with a chairman and a secretary-treasurer, and took a collection to defray necessary expenses. Our purpose was agreed upon—to give impetus to Worldwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas. Persons were chosen to direct the distribution of the bookmarks, put up window posters and care for newspaper publicity.

One of the ministers suggested some special window displays. One of our group was designated to see that requests were made through the pulpits and press for old, unusual or especially precious Bibles. The hearty response to this resulted in a large variety of Bibles and Testaments being attractively displayed in two prominent store windows, using posters and literature to focus attention on the coming Bible Reading campaign. The interest aroused caused newspaper comment almost weekly.

The mayor issued a statement at Thanksgiving time, endorsing the campaign. All denominations were most active, giving the program publicity through verbal announcements and Sunday bulletins.

In all, four meetings of the committee were held in less than an eight-week period—not very many. At the last one, a week before Christmas, all bills and incidentals were taken care of. Out of these meetings grew the suggestion that a permanent interdenominational organization be formed which could be of service any time during the year when it might be needed.

We feel that our community and neighborhood, i.e. the village and nearby countryside, have been made wonderfully conscious of the need and value of reading the Holy Word more regularly.

We are greatly indebted to the American Bible Society for the guidance given us and for the materials supplied. It was a real pleasure to forward to the Society a check covering the small balance left in our committee's treasury when our project closed.

Letting in Light

The Ancient Cities of the Mayas in Yucatan are in ruins, and the life that went on in them largely remains a Sealed Mystery, but their Language still lives. This Story tells something of how That Language is being used to bring the Gospel of Christ to the modern Mayan People

BY ERNEST MATHEWS

TRANSLATION it is that openeth the window, to let in the light; that breaketh the shell, that we may get the kernel; that putteth aside the curtain, that we may look into the most Holy Place; that removeth the cover of the well, that we may come by the water, as Jacob rolled away the stone from the mouth of the well, by which means the flock of Laban were freed. Indeed, without translation into the common tongue, the unlearned are but like children at Jacob's well without a bucket or something to draw with; or as that person mentioned by Isaiah, to whom a sealed book was delivered, with this command, 'Read this, I pray thee,' he was fain to make answer, 'I cannot, for it is sealed.' "

Such were the reasons given in the year 1611 in the preface to our well-beloved King James Version of the English Bible for the translation of the Bible into the current language of the common people; such have been the reasons for translating the Scriptures into the more than 1,100 languages and dialects between and since that time; such are the reasons for promoting the preparation of versions in the 1,800 distinct tongues throughout the world which are still without any portion of the revealed Word; and such are the reasons for giving the New Testament to the thousands of Mayas here in Yucatan. Awaiting this translation are some 300,000 people, about half of whom are bilingual, while the other half speak only Maya. They are scattered throughout the entire peninsula, dwelling on henequen plantations, in isolated camps, or in the myriad villages nestled away in the tropical forests; and they use a language which has very little changed from that which was spoken more than a thousand years ago by the builders of these fabled cities of old, such as Chichen-Itza and Uxmal. Their ancient cities are now in ruins, and the life that went on in them largely remains a sealed mystery to the Mayas of today; but their language still lives, and it is now our opportunity to use it in bringing to them the message of salvation, in order that the Scriptures may not be to still another people a sealed mystery.

At present there are available in the Maya tongue only the Gospels of Mark and John, which were translated by Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Legters of the Pioneer Mission Agency. And now for the remainder of the New Testament the official translator appointed by the American Bible Society is Moisés Romero, who has the assistance of national ministers and lay workers as well as missionaries. Moisés has

from childhood spoken both Maya and Spanish; he completed courses in two of our mission schools—the Bible Institute of the Southeast and the Turner-Hodge High School; he is also a university graduate, and in addition has special training in linguistics, including a course in the Summer Institute of Lin-



Moisés Romero labors to give the New Testament to his people

guistics in Norman, Oklahoma—truly a rare combination and one that makes him uniquely fitted for this task. He realizes that the labor of giving the New Testament to his people is no "royal road," but rather one that involves plodding drudgery; still, he keeps before him the destination—the vision of a revived Maya race, great and glorious not because of dead cities buried in the jungle but because of knowing Him who is alive forevermore and whose infinite love is revealed in the pages of Scripture. Moisés knows what has been proven many times—that there is no path to the heart save through the mother tongue. For that reason he interrupted a promising career in Mexico City to dedicate himself for two or three years to this great cause.

A missionary, the Rev. Ernest Mathews, helps with the task. He compares the translation made by Moisés Romero with the original Greek and checks its doctrinal features with reference to various commentaries. So if you should chance to enter his study these days, you would see him bending over the desk, surrounded by anywhere from fifteen to twenty books, all opened at once for ready reference. Several are versions of the New Testament—four distinct versions in English, three in Spanish, one in German, and one in French. The other books are chiefly commentaries and dictionaries of various sorts; but first

and foremost are the Greek New Testament and the Maya translation. As chapter after chapter is revised, numbers of word-problems arise, but Moisés solves them. For example, "in the days of the census" becomes "in the days when they passed to take the names of the people"; "your young men shall see visions" is translated "your young men shall see that which will be shown to them by God"; "covetousness" is made to read "to desire that which another man has"; "boastfulness" is "high speaking"; "haughtiness" is "high-faced"; and "free" becomes simply "not a slave," for, strangely enough, the Mayas have a word for slaves or servants but none for people who do not find themselves in that condition. Very appropriately, a hypocrite is a "two-faced" person, while one of our most common Biblical words, "faith," has a most suggestive meaning in Maya: "to

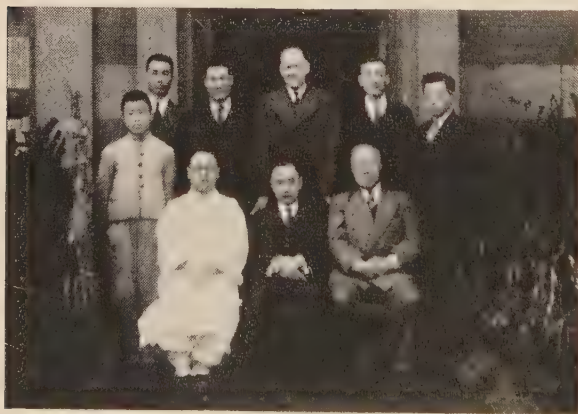
cause to enter into one's being." For after all, is not that what faith in God should be—receiving Him in the center of our being?

Such illustrations serve to show that the task of the Bible translator can be an exciting adventure, and we are grateful to have the opportunity of helping to make the ancient Scriptures speak to the heart of the modern Maya.

Note: The American Bible Society published editions of the Gospels of Mark and John prepared by Mr. Romero and Mr. Legters. Mr. Mathews has worked with Mr. Romero on Philippians and Galatians, which are now on the press. The rest of the New Testament was checked over with Secretary Nida at the Institute of Linguistics at Norman, Oklahoma, this summer, where Mr. Romero was taking some courses.

Forging Ahead in Korea

THE American Bible Society's fifth edition of 54,000 Korean New Testaments is on its way to Korea as these words are written. Publication of Korean Scriptures has been resumed in Korea with binding materials supplied by the American Bible Society. Whole Bibles in Korean are being supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and some are also being printed in Korea. This Far Eastern land that has loved the Bible for so long and after so many years of occupation and opposition, has now found its freedom again and is forging ahead in the Gospel.



The Korean Bible Society recently paid honor to a retiring General Secretary and welcomed his successor. The accompanying picture was taken on the last day of the long term of service of General Secretary Chung Tai-eung. Seated, left to right: Rev. Im Young Bing, newly elected General Secretary; Rev. Chung Tai-eung, retiring General Secretary, who joined the

staff in 1905; Dr. Nam Kung, who is not only Chairman of the Korean Bible Society but General Secretary also of the Korean National Christian Council; Secretary J. C. F. Robertson, in the center of the back row, stands to the right of Rev. Kang Heun Chip, the new Promotion Secretary of the Korean Bible Society.



Consider the plight of a minister with no Bible. There are many such among the world's throng of displaced persons. The Society's Central District sent a letter to every minister in its four States, announcing its readiness to furnish a Bible to any displaced person in any language he required. Among the requests that resulted was that of Rev. Kristaps Caune, who, a

German D.P., served in various places in Europe. Mr. Caune is now happily located in the Methodist Church at Painesdale, in the Michigan Upper Peninsula. The Society has furnished him not only with a Bible for his home use, but also with a larger one for his pulpit.

MEMBERS' FORUM

ual Membership in the Society is secured through of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. Society also provides for Life Membership, Life orship and Memorial Membership. Particulars e sent on request. The editors welcome corre- e from members and devote this page in each o that purpose.]

Los Angeles, California:

Enclosed find my check for \$25 to help supply the needed for those who are hungry for the Word ed, while the doors are still open. ve been saving my half dollars until I would \$25 in order to buy something for myself, but as eading your *Record* I was led to give the money e work of the Lord instead.

Denver, Colorado:

Enclosed is one dollar to be used in spreading the ous copies of the Bible throughout the world. I xteen years old and am thinking of becoming a ater. I only pray that some day I can send you r \$100 instead of one.

Fort Worth, Texas:

Enclose a check for \$2 to buy Testaments for nese people. This gift is from seven little ten- old girls who want to share the Good News with anese.

Roswell, New Mexico:

Enclosed \$25 is for distribution of Bibles or ons to those who cannot otherwise have copies e Scriptures. I am an old preacher of the gospel, nearly eighty-two and retired from active pas- work. My old and sick wife and myself are both ly interested in the Lord's work. We are making sacrificial gift cheerfully.

Hartsville, South Carolina:

Our Daily Bible Readings have been very strength- eg to me. It has really made me feel very good and myself as I really am. I have found joy and am eg much nearer to God. Anything that is good I r to share with my friends in Jesus' name. So will please send me fifty copies of your Reading lists. a sending the extra money so that it may help you end the lists to others free.

Houghton, New York:

For some time I have intended to send you this ck. I am so interested in your work of Bible distri- on. As I read your magazine my heart is moved, your report of some special need makes me feel I will send my next check for that need. . . . I interested in Bibles for the blind, Bibles for Japan,

Germany, etc., etc. So I will not designate the use of this money but leave it to you, who are in a position to know, to use it at your discretion, wherever you feel the need is most pressing. You are remembered in my prayers for the great work you are doing.

From St. Peter, Minnesota:

Enclosed find my \$5 as my fee to continue my Ac- tive Membership in your great organization for an- other year. I'm only sixteen and my tithe doesn't go as far as I would like to make it, but I really think that my offering to your Society is as important as my Church dues or anything else toward the furthering of "Christ above all."

From Kendallville, Indiana:

It will be twenty-two years ago this fall that I was stricken with and completely paralyzed by polio. Gradually I've regained the partial use of my arms and body and can sit up to sew. If it had not been for my Bible and the comfort I found in it, I would have despaired long ago.

So I want to help as much as possible to get Bibles to those who do not have one and need its comfort, too, and also to learn the way to their heavenly home.

Conversation in a Bank Vault

The attorney, accompanied by the executrix and the Government tax representative, had opened the lock box of the deceased. In going over the papers they came to the American Bible Society annuity agreement, taken out less than a year before and on which only one payment had been made. "That was certainly a poor investment," said the Govern- ment representative. "On the contrary" said the at- torney, "I consider that the best investment in her list."

From Covina, California:

It is with a distinct pleasure that I am able to send the enclosed check for \$25 for the work in which my father was so greatly interested.

I happen to have a little money on hand for benev- olences and I was wishing I had the address of the American Bible Society with me while on my vacation. And here comes the *Bible Society Record* in the mail.

Your work has been called to my attention recently in several unusual ways and I am happy to have a part in this great enterprise.

From Memphis, Tennessee:

I have just been introduced to the *Bible Society Rec- ord* for the first time, for which I am grateful. Please, beginning with this issue, I would like to be listed as a subscriber for the sake of the best Book in the world.

Please find check for \$1. May God bless you and your work.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the
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FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 94 NOVEMBER 1949 No. 9

Daily Bible Readings

NOVEMBER

Day Book	Chapter	Day Book	Chapter
1 Revelation	7:9-17	16 Acts	10:1-33
2 Romans	5:1-10	17 Acts	19:23-41
3 Psalms	107:1-22	18 Acts	20:1-12
4 John	16	19 Luke	14:15-24
5 Acts	3:1-16	20 Sunday	
6 Sunday		Acts	27:9-44
Micah	4:1-5	21 Exodus	15:1-19
7 Acts	4:1-22	22 I Samuel	2:1-10
8 Acts	6	23 II Samuel	1:17-27
9 Acts	7:51-60	24 Thanksgiving	
10 Deuteronomy		Psalms	23
	33:23-29	25 Psalms	27
11 Isaiah	2:2-5	26 Psalms	103
12 I Samuel	15:13-26	27 Sunday	
13 Sunday		Isaiah	35
Psalms	92	28 Romans	12
14 Acts	12:1-19	29 Isaiah	55
15 Acts	9:1-22	30 I Corinthians	13

Danish Bible Society

Word has been received of the resignation as Chairman of the Danish Bible Society of the Very Rev. Dean Carl Skovgaard-Petersen, who served on the Board of that Society for thirty-three years and has been its chairman since 1936. Dean Skovgaard-Petersen founded the Danish Bible School and served on the committee for the new translation of the Danish Old Testament from the Hebrew and of the New Testament from the Greek, being chairman of the latter committee. He has published many books, all relating to the Bible. Dean Skovgaard-Petersen will remain on the Society's Board, whose new chairman is His Excellency Th. Frølund, President of the Supreme Court, a member of the Board for the past fifteen years.

They Were Sent

"When I was a girl I began reading my Bible with the 'My Reading Record' leaflet. It was such an inducement to me to read the Word, and in later years the powerful Word had its way and I was saved. Now I have a Sunday-school class of girls and I would like to get them started reading regularly. If you still have these leaflets please send me copies, that I may distribute them as I see the need."

A sample of "My Reading Record" will be sent on request to the Editors, *Bible Society Record*, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

September Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-fourth year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, September 1, 1949, at 3:30 p.m., Mr. James T. V. Steenbergh in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Orrin R. Judd.

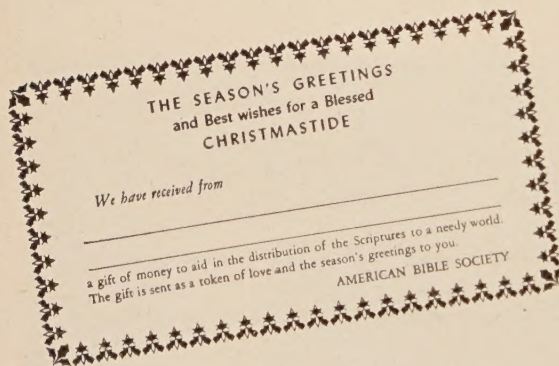
The Board authorized the purchase of two folding machines to facilitate the production of the Scriptures in German.

The Board also authorized an appropriation of \$73,500 to be used for the purchase in Japan of Bible paper for the production of the Scriptures in 1950 for the Japan Bible Society.

There were presented samples of various new inexpensive editions of the Bible in Spanish to meet the increasing demand from Latin America.

First copies of a new edition of Genesis, the Psalms, the Gospel of John and the Book of Romans and 1 and 2 Corinthians in Japanese Braille, which were printed in Tokyo by the Japan Bible Society, were presented, the Braille paper and binding materials needed to produce these volumes being supplied by the American Bible Society.

It was reported that shipments of Braille paper would be made during September to Japan and Germany for the production in those needy countries of Scriptures for the Blind.



Christmas Shopping Early, Yes;— and Thoughtfully

MANY will remember this idea from last Christmas when a number of devoted friends preferred to send money to the Bible Society for the distribution of Bibles and Testaments as an expression of love instead of material gifts to some of their friends and loved ones.

It is a wonderful custom to exchange gifts at Christmas-time and here is an idea that will not only express fondness and love but one that will help bring the largest measure of joy and happiness to the hearts of all three participants in the gift.

(1) The giver. (2) The one remembered. (3) The one receiving the Scripture

Every reader has one friend, perhaps many, who would be happy to be informed by the Bible Society of this reciprocal Christian

Try it this Christmas, send a check, and request the Society to send the Season's Greeting Card to:

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Your friends will receive the Bible Society Record for one year if your gift to each is one dollar or more.

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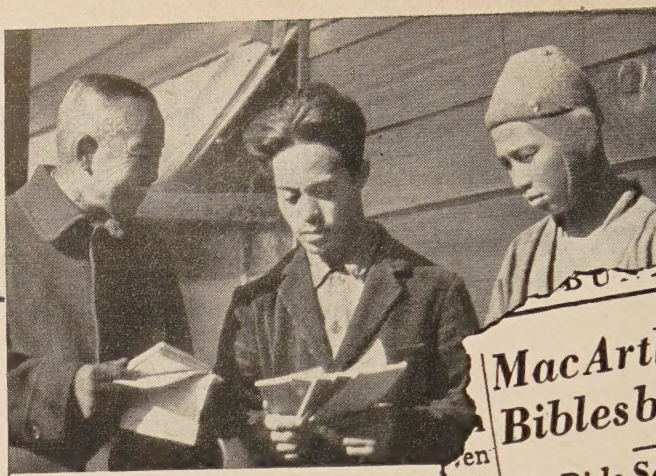
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American Bible Society
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and hamlet" in Japan.
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